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Cain Road's Rich History Linked to Migrations at Turn of 1900s

The Raspberry Farm

Fabricating Shingles in Thurston County: Frank W. Bullard's Photographic Record of One Early 20th Century Operation

$5.00

Fabricating Shingles in Thurston County: Frank W. Bullard's Photographic Record of One Early 20th Century Operation

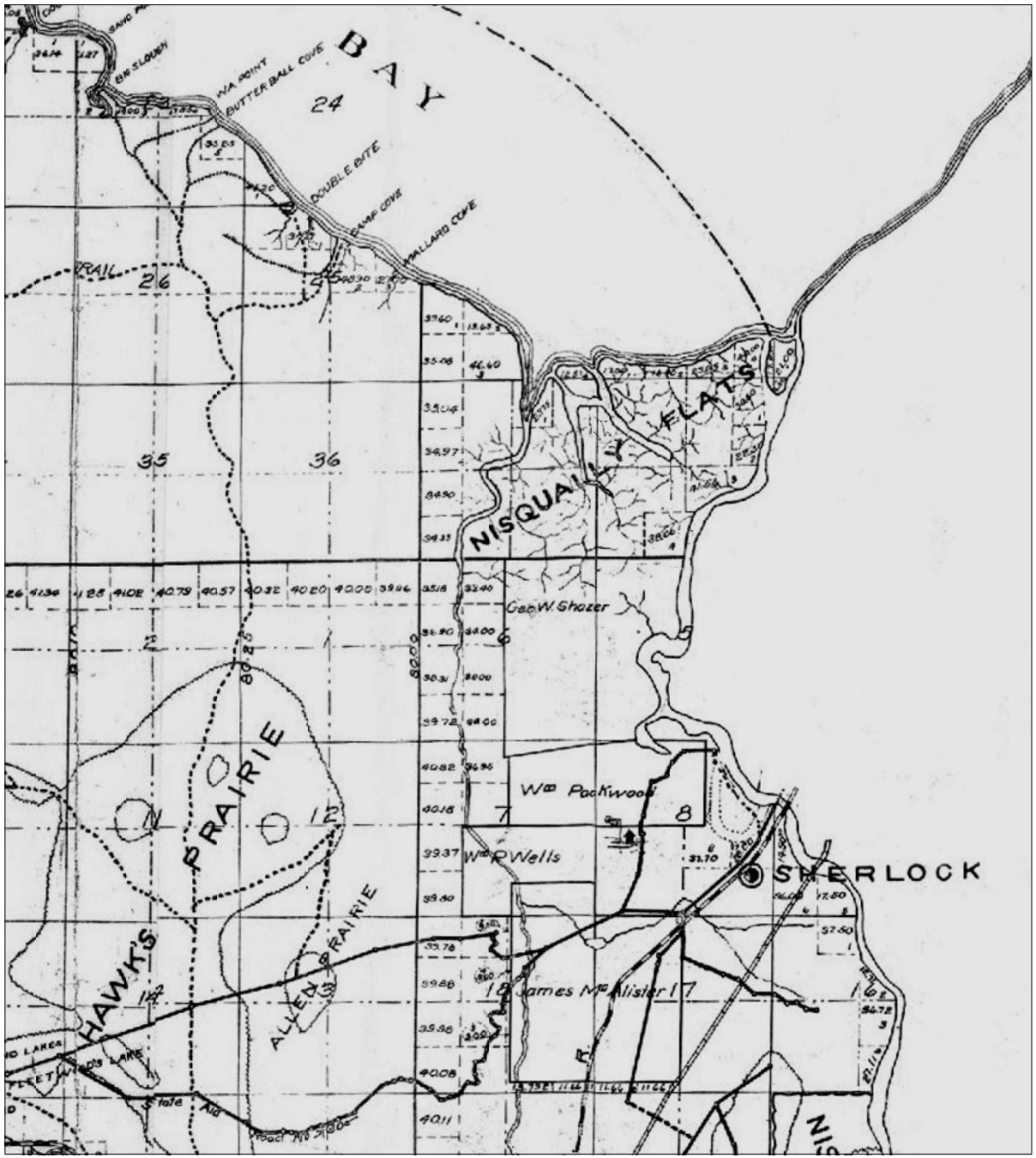
James S. Hannum, M.D.

Shingles made of cedar were used extensively as roofing material in the United States in the decades around 1900. In Western Washington, cedar was usually considered to be less valuable than other species of timber, such as Douglas fir. Nonetheless, the production of cedar shingles was a significant industry which developed some of its own systems of transportation, production, and technology.

For a couple of years, Frank W. Bullard played a part in the shingle business as it was carried out in Thurston County around the turn of the 20th Century. He documented some of that experience in a series of photographs preserved by his great-granddaughter-in-law, Peggy Bullard. Many of those images are described in testimony made by Peggy's father-in-law (whose name was also Frank Bullard) in 1982.[1]

Frank W. Bullard was born August 8, 1858 at Orange, in Franklin County, Massachusetts, a son of William Loring Bullard and his wife, Eliza Bosworth Bullard.[2] In 1880, Frank was living with his parents at Linwood, in Anoka County, Minnesota.[3] That same year, Frank's future wife, Della A. Evans (born August 28, 1863 in Illinois), lived with her parents, George W. and Celinda Evans.[4] Frank and Della were

Undated portrait of Frank W. and Della A. Bullard, from the collection of Peggy Bullard.



Nisqually Flats, now known as the Nisqually Delta. From the 1909 The County Engineer's New Road Map of Thurston County, Washington*, in the collection of the Southwest Region Branch of the Washington State Archives, Olympia, Washington.*

married in 1885.[5] Peggy Bullard's father-in-law recalled that: "My grandfather, Frank (W.) Bullard, moved the family to the Nisqually River flats area when my father was young, in about 1890."[6]

Frank Bullard (Peggy's father-in-law) was born in 1912. He did not know precisely when his grandparents (Frank W. and Della Evans Bullard) moved to the Puget City region of Thurston County. However, a deed dated July 9, 1891 confirms that the Bullards bought 7.75 acres there, bordering on Hogum Bay.[7] Their land was on the southern edge of the surveyed plat of Puget City. Della's parents also bought property in the same general area on June 24, 1891.[8]

Frank Bullard's testimony narrates: "Sometime about the turn of the century my grandfather ran a shingle bolt camp upon the Nisqually River on the Thurston County side near the mouth of the Mashel River."[9] His exact function at the camp is unknown to Peggy Bullard. Another man, Willard Houghton, was the camp's foreman. The Mashel River lies in Pierce County, approximately one mile northwest of La Grande. Although the precise location of the camp has not been discovered, it may well have been on land owned by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. In 1937, Weyerhaeuser owned property on the Thurston County side of the Nisqually River, across from the mouth of the Mashel River.[10]

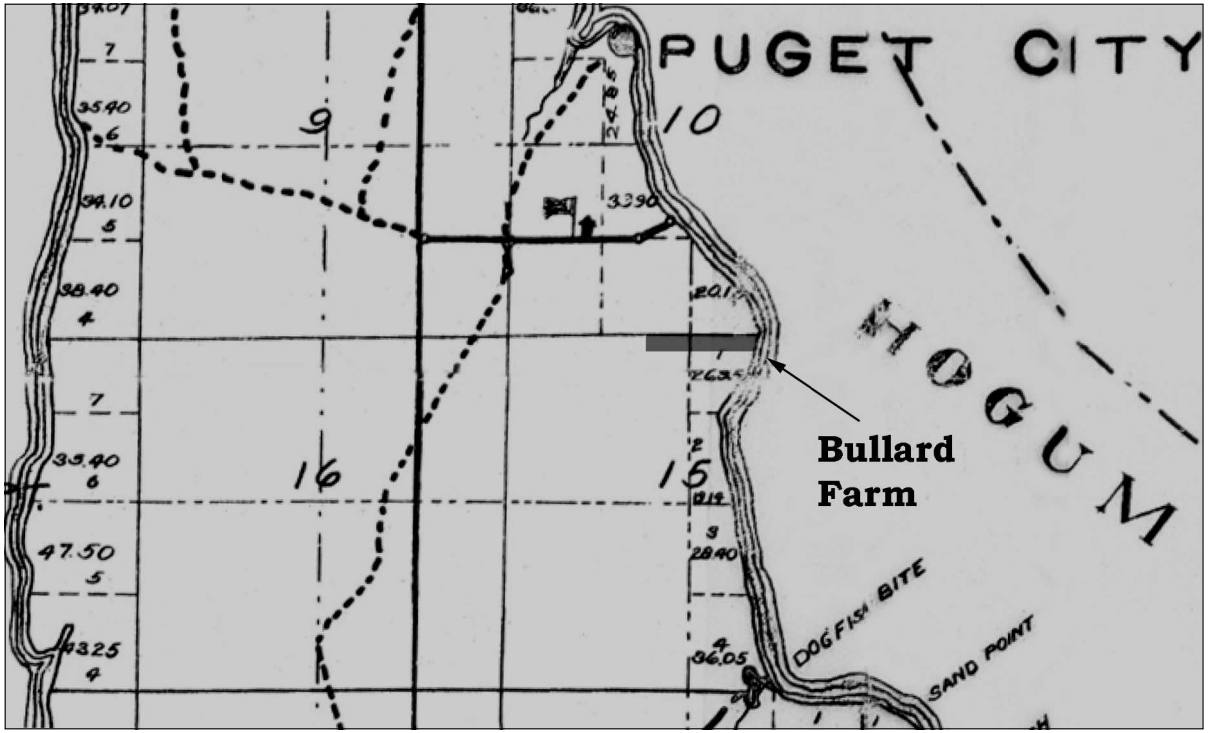
At the camp on the Nisqually River, large cedar trees were felled and then bucked to a suitable length. Thereafter, those segments of the trunk were split into individual bolts, which were transported via the river to the Card shingle mill, situated downriver at Sherlock.

Bolts were loaded on a sled, which was moved to the river by horses.

Several Indigenous Americans worked at the camp. Others were employed in driving the bolts downriver. Peggy Bullard's father-in-law, Frank Bullard narrated: "Well, they [the bolts] just floated with the current. Indians were hired to go along in their dugout canoes. They used long poles to keep the bolts from getting hung up. The Indians followed the bolts all the way down the river. They were collected by a log boom which was stretched

***Opposite top**: A photograph of the residence of Frank and Della Bullard. On the back of the image is written: "Where we lived on the Nisqually River." Following that description, and written in a different hand, is: "Flats." Bullard collection.*

***Opposite bottom**: The Bullard farm purchased in 1891 on Hogum Bay near Puget City. The base map is part of the 1909* The County Engineer's New Road Map of Thurston County, Washington. *The location of the farm is found in Thurston County Deed Book 26, page 474.*


PUGET CITY
HOGUM
Bullard Farm
DOG FISH BITE
SAND POINT
9
10
16
15
3390
2840
3540
3910
3840
4750
3325
3605

across the river at the mill."[11]

The camp included a cookhouse, where the workers took their meals. The camp did not operate during the winter. When asked how long this camp existed, Frank Bullard replied: "Well, I cannot say for certain. But it seems to me that they were up there for at least two seasons. Of course, they only worked the camp during good weather, not during the winter."[12]

During one of the seasons when the Nisqually River camp was operating, Frank W. Bullard's wife, other relatives, and friends visited the camp. Peggy Bullard's father-in-law, Frank Bullard explained: "Well, we have a whole series of photographs that show them—that is, my grandmother and grandfather, Uncle Ora and Aunt Wilma [*sic*; Wilma was actually Ora's daughter; Jessie A. Evans was his wife] and Will Franks—travelling up to the camp. It took them two days and they had to camp along the way."[13]

Will Franks worked in the timber industry but was not employed at the Nisqually River camp.

Frank W. Bullard was not involved in the process of milling the bolts produced at the Nisqually River camp. After traveling along the river, those bolts were retrieved from a boom stretching across the river near the village of Sherlock. In 2023, it is a challenge to visualize just where that mill was located. There are a couple of reasons why that is the case. First, the main channel of the Nisqually River has undergone several location changes over the past 150 years. Second, because the river designates the border between Thurston and Pierce Counties, the deed and tax records for properties in that region have been filed in both counties, depending on where the main channel of the river was, in any particular year.

John A. Packard received the original 320-acre Donation Claim (#42) where the Card Shingle Mill was eventually located. Packard sold his claim on the Pierce County side of the river to Warren Gove in 1862.[14] Gove sold 297 acres of the Packard Claim to Henry Walker in 1874.[15]

Samuel Young Bennett was born in New York State and in 1880, he resided in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Between about 1881 and 1883, Bennett acquired all that part of the Packard Do-

***Opposite top**: An 1891 photograph of Puget City from an unknown photographer. A general merchandise store is visible along with the Bear Hotel. Bullard collection.*

***Opposite bottom**: Frank W. Bullard's caption: "This is a cedar 11 feet through, and the man is lying in the 'under-cut.' The picture is from a shingle bolt camp on the Nisqually River, Washington, 40 miles above its mouth." Peggy Bullard identifies Willard Houghton as the man seated on lower left. Bullard collection.*

nation Claim located in Pierce County.[16] In 1894, Bennett was taxed on 27 acres of the Packard Donation Claim which, due to a change in course of the Nisqually River, had become part of Thurston County.[17]

Through the years, there were at least three saw mills and two shingle mills at Sherlock. Emil Bachelet had a saw mill there in 1896.[18] In 1909, Molberg & Company and Robinson & Swift operated saw mills at Sherlock.[19] The shingle mills at Sherlock were the Nisqually Shingle Mill and the Card Shingle Mill. Over time, both of those mills had more than one owner.

Sometime after 1871 and before 1890 (when the Northern Pacific Railroad built its new line from Lakewood, through Sherlock, Lacey, Olympia, and on to Gate) a slough came into existence in the area immediately northwest of Sherlock. The slough diverted some of the water from the main channel of the Nisqually, sending it through a cutoff. Whether the slough developed naturally, or was manmade, is not clear.

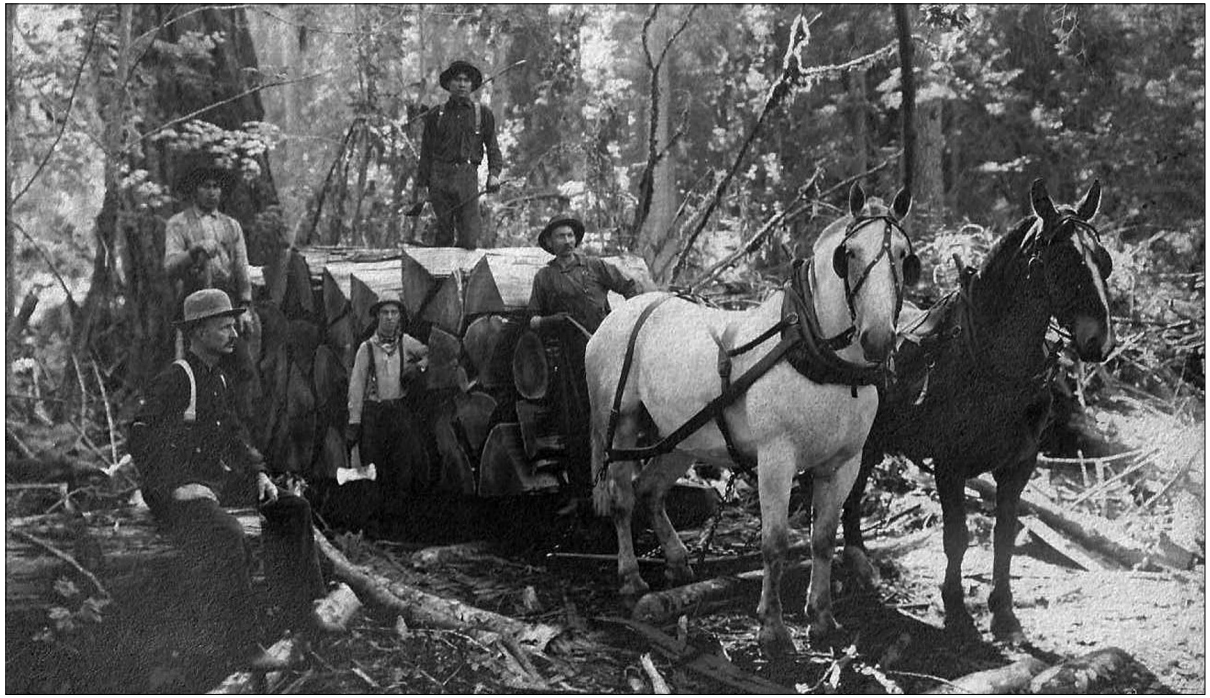
Both shingle mills at Sherlock were probably erected after the Northern Pacific Railroad began freight service to that community. The river provided easy transportation of shingle bolts to Sherlock and finished shingles could be sent to customers via the railroad. Both the Nisqually Shingle Mill and the Card Shingle Mill were sited on parts of the Packard Claim that were the property of Samuel Y. Bennett.

Bennett leased the Nisqually Shingle Mill to Jerome B. Flynn and E. F. Adams on July 14, 1891.[20] However, in a judgement, Edward T. Young obtained title to that mill in March 1892.[21] In 1898, the Nisqually Mill was sold to Shore Brothers & Van Epps, who removed the machinery from the premises.[22]

The history of the Card Mill, where the bolts from the Nisqually River camp were sent, can be traced back to March 1892.[23] John H. Rourk of Tacoma sold a shingle mill to Mason L. Card and Frank L. Knight. The transaction is not recorded in the deed indexes of either Thurston or Pierce Counties, and it is not known whether the mill was already located along the Nisqually River or was moved there from some other location. That mill was sold to Arthur L. Card (Mason L.

***Opposite top**: Here the camp crew cuts a cedar tree into lengths for splitting into shingle bolts. Standing on the log, Frank W. Bullard is the fourth man from the right; Willard Houghton (wearing white suspenders) is the sixth man from the right. Bullard collection.*

***Opposite bottom**: Cedar bolts have been loaded on a sled, which is going to be hauled to the river. Frank W. Bullard is driving the team of horses; Willard Houghton is seated on the left. Bullard collection.*



Card's son) in 1893.[24] The Card Mill was still operating in 1909.[25] It probably was closed permanently by the time the Northern Pacific Railroad abandoned its line through Sherlock, about 1914.

Attempts to pinpoint the location of the shingle mills at Sherlock are complicated by changes in the course of the Nisqually River over time. Many of the deeds, describing transactions that involved those mills, used the river as a reference point. However, the text of an 1893 lien against the Nisqually Shingle Mill locates that mill "at or near the center of the northeast quarter of Section 8, Township 18 North, Range 1 East, which mill by reason of a change in flow of the Nesqually (sic) River is claimed to be in Thurston County . . ."[26] After obtaining title to the Nisqually Mill in 1892, Edward T. Young obtained a lease for the mill site from Samuel Y. Bennett. That 1893 document locates the mill on the south side of the slough that eventually became the main channel of the Nisqually River. It also mentions that the Nisqually Mill had the right to exclusive use of the slough for bolts.[27]

The site for the Card Mill can be deduced from an 1895 deed which locates it in a rectangular area immediately northwest of the Northern Pacific Railroad bridge over the slough. That parcel was 400 feet in the east-west direction and 410 feet in the north-south direction.[28] It was in the northernmost portion of Government Lot 7, in Section 8, Township 18 North, Range 1 East.

After his stint at the Nisqually River shingle bolt camp, Frank W. Bullard farmed for a while, but eventually returned to work in the timber industry. The 1910 census finds him and his brother-in-law, Ora Evans, living next-door to each other near Puget City; both were farming. In 1920, Frank worked for the Mason County Logging Company and boarded at Bordeaux, Washington. His occupation there is described as "Stationary Engineer." This suggests that he was employed in the mill's power plant. But he also appeared at the Puget City address as a farmer. By 1930, Frank was 70 years old and living in Olympia on East Ninth Street. He was working as a steam engineer at a heating plant. In 1940, he resided in his own home at Bordeaux, where he was employed as a church janitor. Frank W. Bullard died September 16, 1949 in Olympia at 1512 Bigelow Street.

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***Opposite top**: A load of bolts is being dumped into the Nisqually River. Bullard collection.*

***Opposite bottom**: This image was labeled "Camp Crew." Frank W. Bullard is standing, second from right; Willard Houghton lies on the ground, third from right. The crew included Indigenous Americans. Bullard collection.*

NOTES

[1] United States of America, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, City of Centralia, Docket No. E-6454-000, Direct Testimony of Frank Bullard, July 13, 1982.

[2] Washington State Department of Health, Death Certificate # 16595, Frank W. Bullard, September 16, 1949. U.S. Census Bureau (1860). Eighth Census of the United Sates. Massachusetts, Franklin County, Orange.

[3] U.S. Census Bureau (1880), Tenth Census of the United States, Minnesota, Anoka County, Linwood.

[4] U.S. Census Bureau (1880), Tenth Census of the United States, Minnesota, Anoka County, Bethel.

[5] U.S. Census Bureau (1900), Twelfth Census of the United States, Washington, Thurston County, South Bay Precinct.

[6] Bullard Testimony.

[7] Washington State Archives, Thurston County Deed Book 26, page 474.

[8] Washington State Archives, Thurston County Deed Book 26, page 306.

[9] Bullard Testimony.

[10] *Metsker's Map of Thurston County, Washington* (Seattle, Washington: Metsker Map Company, 1937).

[11] Bullard Testimony.

[12] Bullard Testimony.

[13] Bullard Testimony.

[14] Washington State Archives, Pierce County Deed Book 1, page 450, dated July 2, 1862.

[15] Washington State Archives, Pierce County Deed Book 3, page 565, dated September 30, 1874.

[16] U.S. Census Bureau (1880), Tenth Census of the United States, page 38, Cheyenne, Laramie County, Wyoming Territory. Samuel Y. Bennett is mentioned as a Director of the Washington Colony in the January 7, 1881 issue of the *Washington Standard*. Deed indexes for Thurston and Pierce Counties do not clarify how Samuel Young Bennett came to possess the John A. Packard Donation Claim. However, in sequence, the 1881 Pierce County Assessment reports Henry Walker with 200 acres in the Packard Donation Claim. In 1882, the Pierce County Assessment shows Henry Walker with

***Opposite top**: Frank W. Bullard labeled this image "Cook house and crew." Frank W. Bullard stands on the far left, next to a barrel. Bullard collection.*

***Opposite bottom**: Willard Houghton, foreman, relaxes at the camp office. Bullard collection.*

180 acres in the Packard Claim, and S. Y. Bennett with an unspecified parcel of land at an unstated location. The 1883 Pierce County Assessment reveals that S. Y. Bennett owned all 320 acres of the Packard Claim.

[17] Washington State Archives, 1894 Thurston County Tax Book, Volume 6, page 948. "A certain piece of land located in the East half of Section 8, Tp. 18N R1E, and containing 27 acres formerly in Pierce Co. now placed in Thurston Co. on account of change of the Nesqually [*sic*] river channel which locates said land on west bank of said river."

[18] "The Bachelet sawmill, at Sherlock, which has been cutting cottonwood lumber for the Tacoma Casket Co., has shut down for two or three weeks." *Washington Standard*, January 17, 1896, page 4.

[19] *The Coast* (Seattle, Washington: Coast Publishing Company, March 1909).

[20] Washington State Archives, Thurston County Miscellaneous Book 3, page 91, dated July 14, 1891.

[21] *Olympia Tribune*, March 7, 1892.

[22] "Shore Brothers and Van Epps, who bought the machinery of the Young shingle mill, at Nesqually [*sic*], with the intention of removing it to Tumwater and installing it in a new venture there, have concluded to wait until they ascertain the effects of the war upon that industry, before sending more 'good money after bad.' They are storing the outfit in this city, to await the result of the present condition." *Washington Standard*, April 22, 1898, page 4.

[23] "Tacoma, March 12.—John H. Rourk gave a bill of sale today for $5,650 to M. L. Card and F. L. Knight on a shingle mill in this county." *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, March 13, 1892, page 2.

[24] Washington State Archives, Thurston County Miscellaneous Book 3, page 609, sale dated September 11, 1893.

***Opposite top**: Camping along the road on the way to the camp. Left to right: Jessie I. Evans, Ora J. Evans, Della A. Bullard, Frank W. Bullard, and Will Franks. Ora was Della Bullard's brother and Jessie was Ora's wife. Will Franks was a friend of the Bullard and Evans families. Bullard collection.*

***Opposite bottom**: A photograph of the camp and crew which was taken when Della Bullard, her brother Ora J. Evans, his wife Jessie I. Evans, and Will Franks visited the camp. Frank W. Bullard stands on extreme left; Della A. Bullard, wearing a hat, stands in front of the white horse; Willard Houghton stands in the doorway; Will Franks is in foreground with a bicycle; Ora and Jessie Evans are seated on the wagon. Bullard collection.*

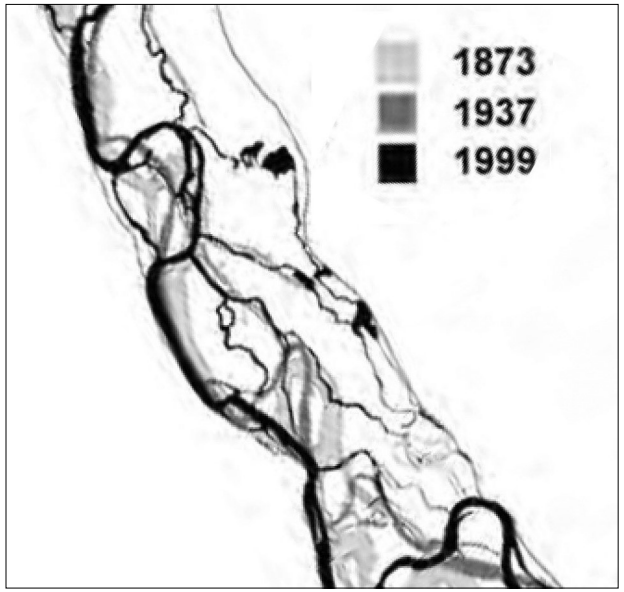
[25] "Sherlock - Mr. Card's shingle mill has closed for the season." *The Tacoma Daily Ledger*, November 21, 1909.

[26] Washington State Archives, Thurston Lien Book 3, pages 3-6.

[27] Washington State Archives, Thurston County Miscellaneous Book 3, page 605, lease dated September 5, 1893.

[28] Washington State Archives, Thurston County Miscellaneous Book 4, page 166, sale dated March 7, 1895.

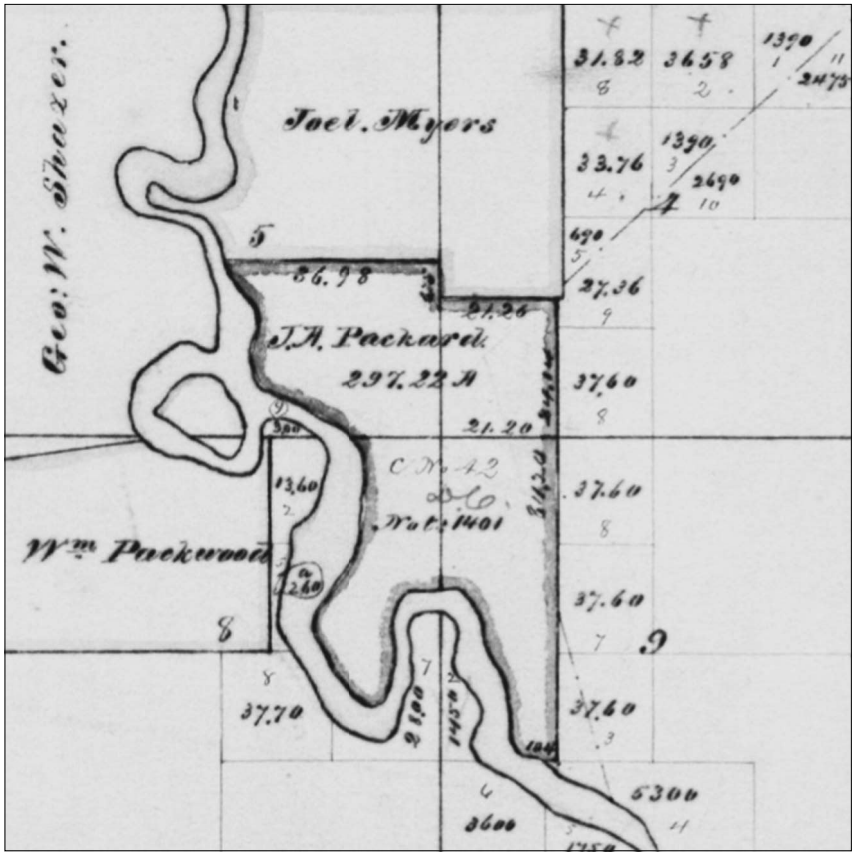
Dr. Hannum is a retired physician and surgeon who arrived in western Washington in 1971. Railroad history has been a life-long interest, and he has written several books on the subject.

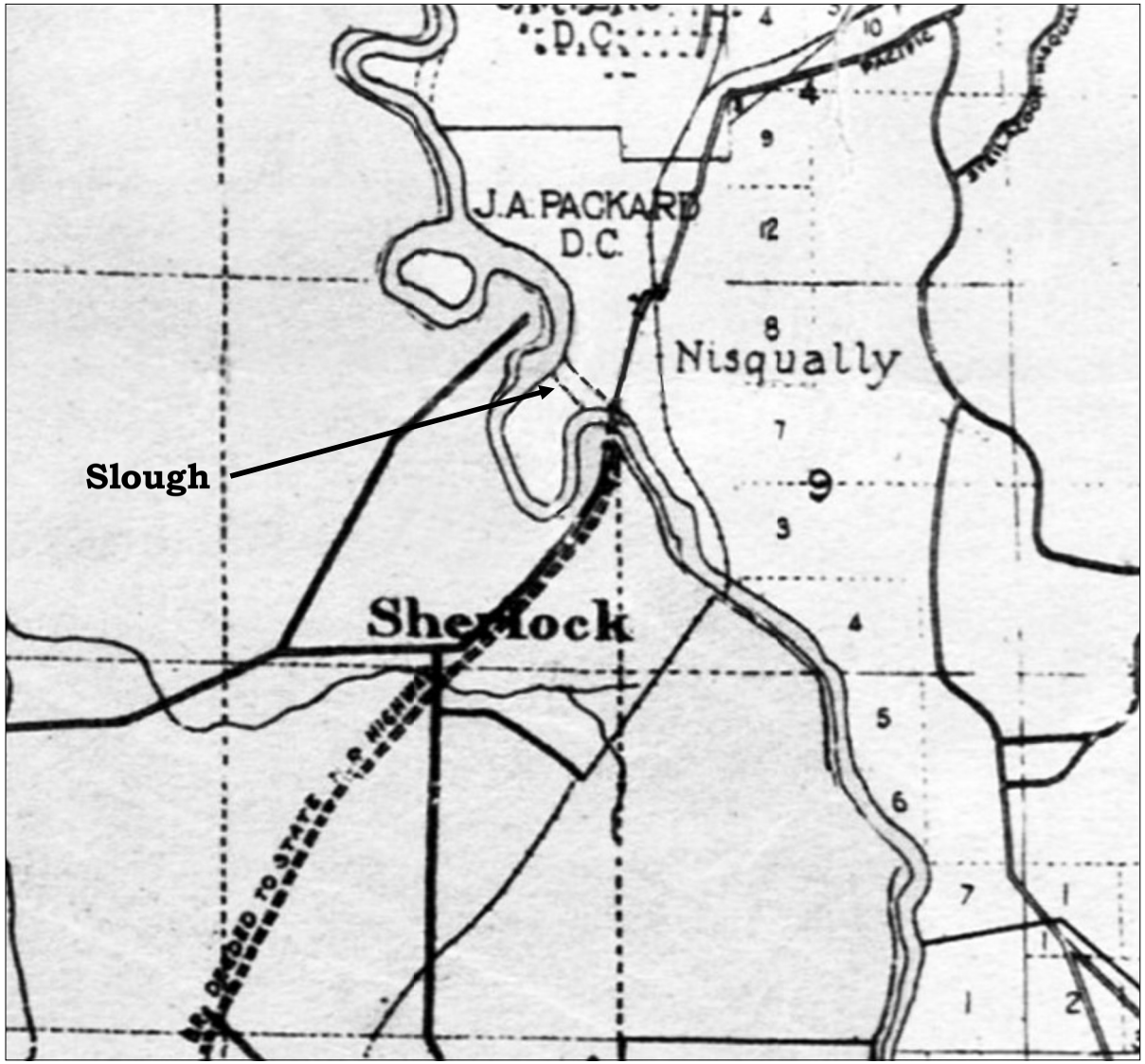


***Left**: Changes in course of the Nisqually River in the region around Sherlock between 1873 and 1999. Brian D. Collins, David R. Montgomery, and Amir J. Sheikh, Reconstructing the Historical Riverine Landscape of the Puget Lowland (https://faculty.washington.edu/bcollins/publications_pdfs/Collins_et_al_2003_Reconstructing_the_historical_riverine_landscape_of_the_Puget_Lowland.pdf, accessed August 8, 2022).*

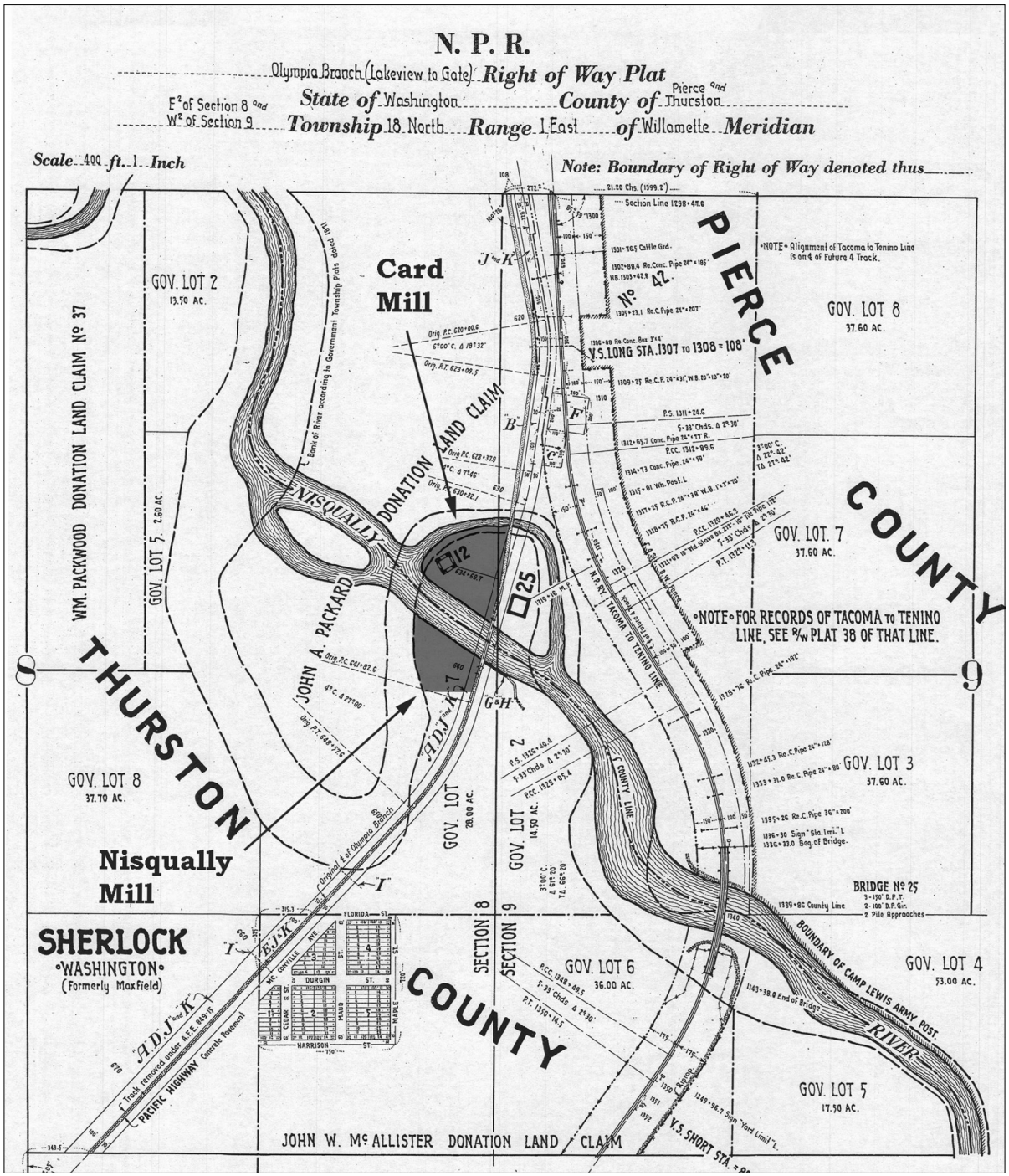
***Opposite top**: Another photograph made during the visit to the camp. Left to right are: Will Franks, Frank W. Bullard, Della A. Bullard, Jessie I. Evans, and Ora J. Evans. Bullard collection.*

***Opposite bottom**: A survey of the John A. Packard Donation Claim in Sections 4, 5, 8, and 9 of Township 18 North, Range 1 East. The Card shingle mill, where the bolts from the camp were milled, was within the Packard Claim. This map is dated November 1871 (https://glorecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx, accessed August 8, 2022). Not included in this article is the original 1853 survey map of this township and range; it demonstrates yet another distinct configuration for the course of the river.*


Geo. W. Shuxer.
Joel. Myers
31.82
36.58
1390
2473
33.76
1390
2690
490
86.98
27.36
J.M. Packwood
297.22 A
37.60
21.20
13.60
Wm Packwood
37.60
37.70
37.60
37.60
5300
3600



***Above**: The slough is represented on this map as it appeared around 1914. Analysis of several deeds from the 1890s suggests that when the slough first existed, it was oriented in a more east-west direction. As time passed, the slough gradually became the river's main channel, and it continues to be so in 2023. This map is from M. Roy Thompson,* Map of Pierce County, Washington, Tacoma, Washington*: Northern Pacific Bank Note Company, 1914. Washington State University Digital Collection (https://content.libraries.wsu.edu/digital/collection/maps/id/973/rec/1, accessed August 8, 2022).*


N. P. R.
Olympia Branch (Lakeview to Gate) Right of Way Plat
E½ of Section 8 and W½ of Section 9
State of Washington County of Thurston Pierce and
Township 18 North Range 1 East of Willamette Meridian
Scale 400 ft. 1 Inch
Note: Boundary of Right of Way denoted thus
Card Mill
Nisqually Mill
SHERLOCK
WASHINGTON
(Formerly Maxfield)
NISQUALLY DONATION LAND CLAIM
WM. PACKWOOD DONATION LAND CLAIM Nº 37
JOHN A. PACKARD
JOHN W. Mc ALLISTER DONATION LAND CLAIM
GOV. LOT 2 13.50 AC.
GOV. LOT 5 2.60 AC.
GOV. LOT 8 37.70 AC.
GOV. LOT 8 37.60 AC.
GOV. LOT 7 37.60 AC.
GOV. LOT 3 37.60 AC.
GOV. LOT 6 36.00 AC.
GOV. LOT 4 93.00 AC.
GOV. LOT 5 17.50 AC.
GOV. LOT 28.00 AC.
GOV. LOT 14.50 AC.
SECTION 8
SECTION 9
THURSTON COUNTY
PIERCE COUNTY
NOTE Alignment of Tacoma to Tenino Line is on ℄ of Future 4 Track.
NOTE FOR RECORDS OF TACOMA TO TENINO LINE, SEE R/W PLAT 38 OF THAT LINE.
N.P.R.R. TACOMA TO TENINO LINE.
V.S. LONG STA. 1307 TO 1308 = 108'
V.S. SHORT STA. = 88'
BRIDGE Nº 25
3-100' D.P.T.
2-100' D.P.Gir.
2 Pile Approaches
BOUNDARY OF CAMP LEWIS ARMY POST
RIVER
PACIFIC HIGHWAY Concrete Pavement
Track removed under A.F.E. 849-H
Original ℄ of Olympia Branch
℄ Bank of River according to Government Township Plats dated 1871
℄ COUNTY LINE
Section Line 1298+41.6
21.20 Chs. (1399.2')
Orig. P.C. 620+00.6
6700' C. Δ 18°32'
Orig. P.T. 623+69.5
Orig. P.C. 628+37.9
4° C. Δ 7°46'
Orig. P.T. 630+37.1
Orig. P.C. 641+82.6
41° C. Δ 27°00'
Orig. P.T. 648+75.6
P.C.C. 1312+89.6
P.C.C. 1320+46.3
P.C.C. 1328+67.4
P.C.C. 1348+46.3
P.T. 1370+16.5
P.S. 1311+24.6
P.S. 1325+40.4
5-39' Chds. Δ 2°30'
3°00' C. Δ 22°42' Td. 21°42'
1301+76.5 Cattle Grd.
1302+88.4 Re. Conc. Pipe 24"×185'
H.B. 1303+82.8
1305+23.1 Re. C. Pipe 24"×203'
1306+88 Re. Conc. Box 3'×4'
1309+23 Re. C. P. 24"×31', W.B. 20'×18'×20'
1312+65.7 Conc. Pipe 24"×77' R.
1314+73 Conc. Pipe 24"×99'
1315+81 Wh. Post L
1317+23 R.C.P. 24"×38' W.B. 1'×7'×15'
1318+77 R.C.P. 24"×46'
1320+76 Re. C. Pipe 24"×192'
1332+65.3 Re. C. Pipe 24"×128'
1333+31.0 Re. C. Pipe 24"×80'
1335+26 Re. C. Pipe 36"×200'
1336+30 Sign "Sta. 1 m. L"
1336+33.0 Beg. of Bridge.
1339+80 County Line
1343+38.9 End of Bridge
1349+96.7 Sign "Yard Limit L"
1370+16.5 Station
FLORIDA ST.
DURGIN ST.
HARRISON ST.
MC CONVILLE AVE.
CEDAR ST.
MAPLE ST.
A.D.J. and K.
E.J. and K.
J and K
G and H
B
C
F
I

***Previous page**: The Northern Pacific Railroad Right of Way Plat for the region near Sherlock, Olympia Branch (Lakeview to Gate), page 17. The document shows both the Point Defiance Line and the portion of the Lakeview to Gate Link, at Sherlock. The Sherlock segment was abandoned in 1914, when the Point Defiance Line went into operation.The author has shaded the area north of the Nisqually River, where the Card Shingle Mill was located. The site of the Nisqually Shingle Mill is represented by the shaded area south of the river. Both mills appear to have been in Government Lot 7 of Section 8, Township 18 North, Range 1 East. The map also indicates what the course of the river was in 1871. This map is preserved at the Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive in Burien, Washington as: Northern Pacific Railway, Tacoma Division, Lakeview to St. Clair, Title Plats 1 to 20, Stations 0 to ~612, Mile Posts 0 to 15.*

***Above**: A post-1912 view north along the Northern Pacific Railroad at Sherlock. This railroad right-of-way was abandoned in 1914 and later was incorporated into Old Pacific Highway SE. Though not visible here, in the distance the railroad track curved to the left and crossed the slough which, by then, had become the main channel of the Nisqually River. The Nisqually Shingle Mill and the Card Shingle Mill were located on the left side of the track, south (Nisqually) and north (Card) of the bridge. This photograph is courtesy of the Lacey Museum.*